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Central Intelligence Agency

ER 1343/1-88



Washington, D. C. 20505

15 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. George Van Eron
Director, NSC Secretariat

SUBJECT: Draft response for General Powell's signature
to [redacted]

25X1

1. Reference your Memorandum dated 04 April 1988, ID 8801795, due date of 14 April 1988. (Attachment #2)

2. Attached you will find a draft letter to the relatives of [redacted] explaining that there is no evidence that he is being held by the Resistance. (Attachment #3) However, the letter states that all government agencies have not yet been checked. Please refer to Attachment #1, for background information. In order to obtain a complete response to [redacted] inquiries, suggest a check be made with the Department of State and Justice.

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3. There are no CIA records on [redacted] and FBI traces are pending. If we can be of further assistance, please advise.

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[redacted]
Executive Secretary

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Attachments: 3

1. 11 April background memo (S)
2. NSC referral, 4 Apr 88
3. Draft ltr to [redacted]

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UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF
ATTACHMENT # 1

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11 April 1988

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Draft Reply, Presidential Correspondence

The situation presented in the attached letter is quite implausible, for a number of reasons:

-- Resistance prisoners are identified and visited with regularity by workers of the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (ANPDH).

-- to our knowledge or that of the ANPDH, the Resistance has never held any U.S. nationals as prisoners.

-- the Resistance has no fishing boats.

-- the nearest fishing port is over 170 miles from the only known Resistance prisoner holding facility; even if transportation were provided on a Resistance helicopter to the nearest road, it would still take two full days to get to the nearest port. Nevertheless, the chronology provided indicates [] made his arrangements to be reassigned from the prison location on 21 December 1987, and yet had been on a fishing voyage and returned to an unknown port by the evening of 24 December 1987.

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-- although it is not stated, it is certainly implied [] was captured in conjunction with the seizure of an aircraft on a drug run. While allegations of involvement in drug running by opponents of the Sandinista government (as well as by the Sandinista government itself) are numerous, those that can be substantiated do not involve the Nicaraguan Resistance or its personnel. In addition, one of the unsubstantiated allegations involve seizure of an aircraft or the taking of U.S. prisoners by the Resistance.

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Given the general tone of the letter, we would suggest further checks with the Department of Justice to determine if [] perchance a Federal prisoner; or with the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State to see if he is recorded as a prisoner of any foreign government. The attached draft letter is intended to deal with the allegation that he is a prisoner of the Nicaraguan Resistance, and leaves open the possibility of other checks.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 8801795

REFERRAL

DATE: 04 APR 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: POWELL, COLIN L

SOURCE:

25X1

DATE: 04 APR 88


SUBJ: LTR RE PRISONER OF WAR BEING HELD BY CONTRAS

REQUIRED ACTION: PREPARE DRAFT REPLY

DUE DATE: 14 APR 88

COMMENT:

FOR


GEORGE VAN ERON

DIRECTOR NSC SECRETARIAT

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DRAFT

[Redacted]

(Address not provided)

Dear [Redacted]

The President deeply sympathizes with the concern that you and your family must feel with regard to the situation of your brother, [Redacted]

[Redacted] he has directed me to do all possible to determine if he is being held by any element of the Nicaraguan Resistance.

I regret to inform you that the Resistance does not appear to be detaining your brother. The Nicaraguan Resistance has an orderly prisoner handling procedure, and as of January 1988 semi-annual report of the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (ANPDH), which is enclosed, was known to be holding 57 prisoners of war and 10 criminal prisoners. The Resistance did release an additional 80 prisoners of war to the Costa Rican government on September 17, 1987, and your brother was not among them. None of the prisoners involved are U.S. nationals.

After determining that your brother does not appear to be a prisoner of the Nicaraguan Resistance, I initiated other inquiries in order to

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determine whether any word had been heard of him elsewhere in the region. Because of the number of places we have to inquire, it will take a little longer to report the results of this effort. Nevertheless, I have taken the liberty of providing you with this interim reply.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: 1



Second Six-Month Report on Human Rights in the Nicaraguan Resistance

January 1988



Asociación Nicaragüense Pro-Derechos Humanos

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ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA				
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17	SA/DDO	X			
18					
19					
20					
21					
22	EP				
SUSPENSE		14 Apr 88 <small>Date</small>			

Remarks Please have DRAFT response prepared
for ES transmittal to Gen Powell.

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Executive Secretary

5 Apr 88

Date

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